

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1244**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano and Beall)**

February 18, 2011

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An act relating to developmental services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1244, as introduced, Chesbro. Developmental services: individual choice budgets.

Under existing law, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, the State Department of Developmental Services is authorized to contract with regional centers to provide support and services to individuals with developmental disabilities. Under existing law, the regional centers purchase needed services for individuals with developmental disabilities through approved service providers or arrange for their provision through other publicly funded agencies. The services and supports to be provided to a regional center consumer are contained in an individual program plan (IPP), developed in accordance with prescribed requirements.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would support the implementation of individual choice budgets for regional center consumers.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3     (a) The Legislature recognizes the aspirations of people with  
4 developmental disabilities to make their own life decisions, such  
5 as where and with whom one lives, the role one plays within his  
6 or her community, when to enter into and whether to sustain  
7 long-term relationships, and how to pursue economic and spiritual  
8 goals.

9     (b) Individual choice budgets offer regional center consumers  
10 authority over a fixed budget allocation, the freedom to design  
11 supports of their choosing, and the support necessary to maximize  
12 control over their services and their lives. This option promotes  
13 core quality outcomes based on universal human aspirations.

14     (c) Individuals who have the choice to spend their allocation  
15 on a wide range of supports and services, such as hiring their own  
16 workers and purchasing items and services, have the ability to  
17 make creative, nontraditional purchases based on their individual  
18 needs and aspirations.

19     (d) Direct support workers are the foundation for the supports  
20 necessary for people with developmental disabilities to access full  
21 citizenship and employment opportunities and to pursue a life of  
22 meaning in the ways that they choose. Therefore, individuals  
23 should have the right to utilize their allocation to hire workers of  
24 their choice and to supervise, direct, schedule, evaluate, train, and  
25 terminate employees.

26     (e) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that  
27 would support the implementation of individual choice budgets  
28 for regional center consumers.